

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13 have been amended. New claims 14-19 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Regarding the drawing objections, Applicants previously submitted translated drawings along with the English translation of the specification on June 25, 2002. Nonetheless, Applicants resubmit the drawings herewith.

In the Office Action, claims 11 and 13 were rejected as being indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants have amended these claims to clarify that the computer program product is in a carrier wave in which the control program is modulated as a data signal. These are "signal" claims and find support in the specification beginning on page 24, line 15 through page 25, line 9.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected as being anticipated by published U.S. patent application US 2002/0067289 A1 by SMITH ("SMITH"). In view of the clarifying amendments made with respect to each of the independent claims, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Essentially, Applicants have clarified, with respect to independent claims 1, 2 and 4-9 that, for example, information sent (or received) by the center transmitter/receiver 112 (the center side system 101) is information necessary to reproduce at the center transmitter/receiver 112 the map that is currently being displayed by the navigation system 123 on the display monitor 8 (see Figure 2).

As recited in independent claim 1, the map information transmission unit transmits information related to the map currently displayed on a display device

to another control apparatus via a digital mobile telephone system. Such “information” is that “necessary to reproduce at the other control apparatus the map currently displayed on the display device”. Similarly, independent claim 2 directed toward the map information update apparatus includes a map information update reception unit that receives “information related to the map” that is “necessary to reproduce at the map information update apparatus the map currently displayed on the display device...”. Likewise, claim 4 directed toward the navigation system includes the same feature as noted with respect to claim 1 above. Method claims 5-7 also similarly recite either reproducing, transmitting, or receiving information related to the map that is necessary to reproduce the map currently displayed on the display device. Lastly, computer program claims 8 and 9 have also clarified this feature.

By contrast, SMITH describes a system and method for receiving weather forecast information in a vehicle so as to warn the vehicle operator of potential weather hazards. While SMITH describes transmitting its location information, and possibly vehicle sensor data, he does not disclose or even suggest the transmission of information related to the map currently displayed in the vehicle that is necessary to reproduce at the receiving end the map currently displayed (see paragraph 30). Indeed, because SMITH transmits its location and/or sensor information to various weather centers, it does not even remotely suggest that such information is that necessary to reproduce the map currently displayed in the vehicle (see paragraph 31).

Rather, SMITH transmits the vehicle's current location to a weather center (weather center 101) merely to obtain warning information by comparing a forecast location for each vehicle with a forecast weather hazard. Clearly, such information on the vehicle's current location according to SMITH is not information related to the map that is necessary to reproduce the map, currently displayed on the display device (at the navigation system 123, for example), at the other control apparatus (the center transmitter/receiver 112, for example). Hence, Applicants submit clarified independent claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are patentable over SMITH.

Also, Applicants have further clarified claim 5, as well as independent claim 3, to note that a user of the map display control apparatus/navigation apparatus and an operator of the map information update apparatus/center system can conduct a telephone conversation in order to update the map at the center system.

By contrast, SMITH does not disclose nor teach a communication control unit that allows an operator of the map information update apparatus and a user of the map display control apparatus to conduct a voice conversation (see claim 3). SMITH also does not disclose nor teach a map information update unit that updates the information related to the map based upon the voice conversation between the operator and the user (also see claim 3). Likewise, SMITH does not disclose nor teach such a telephone conversation wherein the user of the navigation apparatus informs the operator of a desire to change the map

currently displayed at the navigation apparatus (see claim 5). Hence, Applicants submit independent claims 3 and 5 are patentable over SMITH for these reasons and/or in addition to the above.

Regarding added dependent claims 14-17, these claims depend from claim 3 and are also submitted to be patentable. In that regard, dependent claim 14, as well as independent claim 2, specifically recites that the information related to the map transmitted to the map information update apparatus is information necessary to reproduce at the map information update apparatus the map currently displayed on the display device.

Finally, Applicants' added dependent claims 18 and 19 specifically recite the voice communication control unit that allows an operator and a user of the map display control apparatus to conduct a voice conversation. Hence, as with independent claims 3 and 5, these claims are also submitted to be patentable over SMITH.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

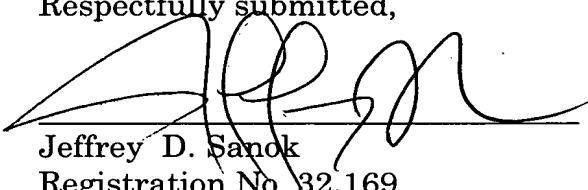
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

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